

thirty-six years, Mr. Southwood retired in 1879. He leaves behind him at his death a name and an example which will never be forgotten at Cheltenham College, where his surviving friends and pupils propose to erect a new library to his memory.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on February 13, 1852.

JOHN WATSON was born in the village of Ireshopeburn, near St. John's Chapel, Weardale, on February 10, 1827. He was educated at the village school and at St. John's Chapel. From boyhood he showed a great taste for physical science, and was at all times most industriously given to habits of self-culture.

While still a youth he obtained a humble position in the chemical works of Mr. Hugh Lee Pattinsen at Washington, and gradually rose through several minor posts to that of cashier in the office, and later on he became general manager of the works. In 1864 he left Washington to become the founder and managing partner of the chemical works of Messrs. Watson, Kipling & Co., at Seaham Harbour, on the coast of Durham. Though a most industrious worker at his profession, Mr. Watson found time to devote to astronomy, and he showed great genius in the construction, by his own hand and lathe, of telescopes and various optical instruments.

In March 1856 a paper, "On the Outer Ring of Saturn," written by Mr. Watson, was communicated by the Astronomer Royal to the Royal Astronomical Society, and this was followed in January 1857 by a note, "On the Occultation of Jupiter on January 2, 1857." In 1864 he communicated a note, "On a new Binocular Telescope," and since then he has contributed to the *Notices* from time to time, the last communication being "On the Satellites of Mars," in January 1882.

Mr. Watson was well known in the county of Durham as a popular lecturer on astronomy, one of his best known lectures being on the harmony of the Mosaic record of creation with the modern scientific revelations of astronomy and geology. Though not an orator, he had a happy way of imparting knowledge of dry scientific matter in everyday language.

He was familiar with the discoveries of modern science, being well read in the subjects of chemistry and geology, as well as astronomy, and he made meteorological observations for many years at Washington, which formed the subject of some papers on rainfall, &c., in the "Tyneside Naturalists' Transactions." His observatory at Vane House, Seaham Harbour, contains an 8-inch achromatic, with object glass, by Wray. He also worked with a 12-inch, by Messrs. Cooke, of York, and with reflecting telescopes of his own construction, the specula being ground and polished by himself.

Mr. Watson had been in his usual health up to October 30, on the evening of which he was seized with sickness, and, though the best medical aid was procured, the disease, intus-

susception, proved fatal. He died on the afternoon of November 3, at the comparatively early age of fifty-eight, leaving a widow, two sons, and two daughters to mourn his loss.

Trained from childhood in the tenets of the Wesleyan faith, Mr. Watson was, up to the time of his decease, an active member, and loyal supporter of the United Methodist Free Church; but he was ever a man of broad and liberal views, and in his wealthier days gave much, in a quiet way, to various charitable objects.

As an employer of labour he was much respected by all his men, and as a member of various local boards of health and of education he was at all times courteous and useful.

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THOMAS WILLIAM WEBB was born on the 14th day of December, 1807. He was the only son of a clergyman, the Rev. John Webb, rector of Tretire cum Michaelchurch, in the county of Hereford, a living in the gift of Guy's Hospital, which he held with the Vicarage of St. John's, Cardiff. The Rev. John Webb was a good classical and antiquarian scholar; the late Sir Henry Ellis described him as an eminent authority on Norman French, and he was frequently called upon to give evidence in Courts of Law with respect to the interpretation of early documents, but the father of the future astronomer was more particularly devoted to researches respecting the history of the West of England during the period of the Civil War. He had inherited a large collection of MS. matter referring to the Cromwellian period from Baron Pengelly, a connection of the Cromwells, in whose house Richard Cromwell, sometime Lord Protector of England, died. During the greater part of a long life the Rev. John Webb was occupied in preparing a "History of Herefordshire during the Civil War"—a work which, though he lived to the age of ninety-three, he never finished, but his son, Thomas William Webb, with filial devotion, completed and published it after his death. In the preface the son speaks of the long years of thoughtful study which his father had given to the work, and of the dread of inaccuracy or precipitation which prevented its earlier publication. This careful and conscientious spirit was fully inherited by the son, and is a decided feature of his astronomical writings. Although the father did not finish his great work on the "History of Herefordshire," he completed several memoirs for the Society of Antiquaries, and edited more than one volume for the Camden Society, though one of these, "The Military Memoirs of Colonel John Birch," a Cromwellian leader, was left only partly finished, and was completed by his son.

Thomas William Webb's mother died when he was still a child, and his father devoted himself to the boy's education. He was a painstaking, carefully precise boy, preternaturally old and studious, as might have been expected from the child com-